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Bangalore Mirror ON SUNDAY

TEMP Max 29 | Min 20 | Humidity 66% Mostly Cloudy | Sensex 81,451 | Nifty 24,750 | Gold 94,790 | Silver 96,996 | Dollar 85.56 | Euro 97.05 | GBP 115.19

REDUCE, RECYCLE

Government school sets up Dry Waste Aggregation Centre on campus, to encourage students to understand basics of waste management

PAGE 3

TOW TO TANGO

Police rush to assuage fears over towing of vehicles after citizens react with concerns of misuse, corruption and harassment

PAGE 7

Stage of extraction of groundwater in Bengaluru urban is 187%, while its recharge capacity is the worst in the state with maximum annual recharge happening in Anekal and least in B'luru East

HURRY, RECHARGE OFFER MAY END SOON

Domestic and industrial extraction is maximum in city

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Bengaluru's groundwater resource is depleting fast. This statement may be tough to process when one sees the waterlogged roads of the city each time it rains, but it is just symptomatic of our inability to use the rain.

The Central Groundwater Board (CGWB) has highlighted that the stage of extraction of groundwater in Bengaluru urban is 187%, and in Bengaluru rural, it is 147%.

The total annual extractable groundwater available for Bengaluru rural is 15,752.4 ham, and the district is currently extracting 23,164.46 ham. Similarly, the yearly extractable resource for Bengaluru urban is 28,565.58 ham, but the current extraction is almost double, 53,332.51 ham.

While Bengaluru is extracting more than available, its recharge capacity is the worst across all 31 districts in Karnataka.

Anekal is responsible for the maximum annual groundwater recharge in Bengaluru, and the minimum is happening in Bengaluru East. As expected, all 10 assessment

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"Apart from digging recharge wells, BBMP is also reviving city lakes, and this will lead to substantial recharge of the groundwater table. However, citizens, especially large institutions, need to participate in such initiatives

—S Vishwanath, water expert

Family e-feud

Complaint against woman in defamation, online harassment of husband brings misuse of tech in personal conflict to fore

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In a rare and possibly first-of-its-kind incident in the city, a man has filed a police complaint accusing his daughter-in-law of cyber defamation and online harassment. The case highlights a growing trend of domestic disputes spilling into digital spaces, with families increasingly turning to cybercrime authorities for redressal.

The complaint, filed on May 21, alleges that the woman created multiple fake email accounts, some impersonating her husband and others under different identities, to send defamatory content. These emails were reportedly circulated among family members and sent to the husband's workplace, accusing him and his family of intentionally delaying her visa process.

According to the complaint, the couple had been residing abroad until July 2023. After the wife's visa expired, both returned to India. The husband later went back abroad alone due to visa processing delays, while the wife remained in India. The complainant claims that the emails began circulating shortly after this separation.

The messages, he alleges, have caused significant emotional distress within the family and have affected the professional reputation of those involved.

The case involves multiple legal concerns, including cybercrime for the use of fake email accounts (identity theft), defamation for the spread of damaging and false statements, impersonation for pretending

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11 »

Career expo 2025 in Bengaluru draws thousands, offering academic guidance post-SSLC/PUC, featuring 35+ institutions, expert talks, and CET counselling for informed student choices

Day One sees massive turnout at VK Education Fair

In a bid to guide students on academic choices after SSLC and PUC, Vijay Karnataka launched the two-day VK Education Fair 2025 in Bengaluru, drawing an enthusiastic crowd on Day 1. Inaugurated by former CM Basavaraj Bommai, actor Diganth, and BCU Acting VC Professor KR Jalaja at Jnana Jyothi Auditorium, the fair brought together over 35 institutions, including Ramaiah, REVA, and Saptagiri NPS University, offering courses from diploma to PhD. Thousands of students and parents from Bengaluru and nearby districts attended to explore academic options, fee structures, and campus facilities. Commending the initiative, Bommai said VK has created a "chariot of knowledge" under one roof, making valuable educational resources easily accessible. Actor Diganth also praised the fair for providing much-needed clarity to students and parents, encouraging them to make informed decisions. A CET counselling session by KEA official Srinath stressed the importance of entering more course options to improve seat allotment chances. The fair continues to be a vital one-stop platform for academic planning across all streams.

PICS: KS SRIDHAR

Don't miss final day of VK Education Fair

The VK Education Fair is concluding on Sunday, and it's your last chance to explore a wide range of career options after SSLC and PUC under one roof. A key highlight is the CET counselling session from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm, offering students and parents valuable insights into option entry, seat selection, and college choices. With direct access to leading institutions, expert career guidance, and comprehensive course information, the fair makes decision-making easier and more efficient. Whether you're still exploring options or ready to finalise your next step, this is an opportunity you shouldn't miss.

VK ವಿಜುಕೇಷನ್ FAIR 2025 A PREMIER EDUCATIONAL EVENT

Experts speak...

At the VK Education Fair, several participating institutions showcased their academic strengths and offerings. Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences highlighted its blend of modern and traditional programs, along with excellent placements and a spacious campus. REVA University presented its wide academic portfolio comprising 38 undergraduate, 31 postgraduate, 8 diploma, and 20 PhD courses, emphasising skill-based education aimed at career growth. Saptagiri NPS University, which evolved from an engineering college in 2001 to a full-fledged university in 2022, focused on its strong infrastructure and student-friendly environment. ACS College drew attention to its quality mechanical engineering programs and the role such fairs play in clearing student and parent doubts. AMS showcased a diverse range of engineering, diploma, and general courses, complemented by hands-on learning initiatives like hackathons and boot camps. Meanwhile, CMR University reported high interest in its engineering programs and informed visitors about its annual 12 crore scholarship pool available across various categories, including defence, CET, and sports.

-Prakash VL

At Edu Fair, top institutions showcased academic strengths. Ramaiah University highlighted its modern-traditional program mix, while REVA University showcased 90+ courses focused on skill-based learning and career advancement

For more details, contact: 99160 79232 / 96869 38983

Scan the QR code to register

School's 'My Waste' drive gives kids' green goals

Government school in Kattigenehalli is training students to bring dry waste from home for proper segregation; on-campus centre ensures household waste is recycled instead of ending up in landfills

Dry waste aggregation centre

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A government school in north Bengaluru has become a beacon of change. The Higher Primary school in Kattigenehalli has taken up a dry waste management initiative like none other. Come June 5, and as many as 300 students on campus will collect dry waste from their homes and bring it to the Dry Waste Aggregation Centre set up on the school campus.

The initiative, christened 'My Waste, My Responsibility', will ensure that the waste generated by the families of these 300 students does not reach landfills.

"We have started this program mainly to inculcate a sense of social responsibility among our students for waste management. The initiative is catching them young and imparting the message that waste management is our duty. We are also teaching them the concepts of reduce, reuse, and recycle," said Kalavathi S, headmistress, Government Higher Primary School in Munishwara Layout, Kattigenehalli.

While the school has 438 children, the initiative is being kicked off with 300 students from Class IV to Class VII.

Students will soon be instructed to bring dry waste from their homes every Saturday and drop the waste into 16 segregation compartments, based on the type of waste. Once a considerable amount is collected, the waste will be picked up by a dry waste vendor and taken to certified recyclers.

"The dry waste will be sold to the vendor. The aggregation centre also collects eggshells from mid-day meals. The sheels are being sent to pharmacy companies," said Suhasini, co-founder of Vedan Trust, a non-profit organisation that is helping the school become a zero waste generating campus.

Kalavathi recalls that the journey of turning the school campus into a model of dry waste management began in February last year, with the support of school teachers, Vedan Trust, and SVP India under the Swachha Belaku program.

What began as a classroom conversation quickly became a movement, where teachers not only start to impart knowledge but also lead by example, instilling values of ownership, responsibility, and environmental stewardship among the students.

The school underwent a plantation drive a few years ago, and over a hundred saplings were planted across the 3.11-acre campus. However, the campus soon started receiving a lot of leaf litter, forcing the headmistress and other teachers to brainstorm a solution.

"Apart from dry eaves, we also had biscuit and chocolate plastic wrappers that students would discard. That was when we initiated dry waste management on our campus and established the aggregation centre.

However, we have decided to take it to the next level by ensuring that dry waste generated by families of 300 students reaches the right destinations," added Kalavathi.

One killed in highway crash

One person was killed and two others were injured after a speeding car rammed into a Kalyana Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (KKRTC) bus from behind on National Highway 48 near Thonachinakuppe in Nelamangala taluk.

The deceased has been identified as Obala Reddy (35), a real estate businessman from Ballari. He died on the spot due to the impact of the collision. Two others in the car, identified as Sunil (the driver) and Divya, sustained serious injuries and were immediately rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment.

The accident occurred on Saturday near a tourist dhaba along the Tumkur-Bengaluru highway. The police visited the accident site, conducted an inspection, and shifted the body to the Nelamangala Public Government Hospital for post-mortem.

A case has been registered at the Nelamangala Traffic Police Station, and further investigation is underway.

Woman dies by suicide

A 38-year-old woman allegedly died by suicide due to a domestic trigger. The incident took place on Thursday night near Savakanahalli in Devanahalli Taluk.

The deceased, identified as Nagaratna, was a tailor by profession. According to the police, Nagaratna had a history of mental health issues and was often getting upset over small matters.

On the day of the incident, Nagaratna got upset over eating the same meal again.

Despite her husband's attempts to console her and offer alternate food, she reportedly remained upset. Around 8.30 pm, she went into the bathroom and did not come out for a long time.

When there was no response, her husband broke open the door and found her dead.

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THINGS TO DO

01 Poetry showcase

Enjoy an evening of heartfelt verse and soulful storytelling on Tuesdays with the Bard—India's longest-running poetry event. **Where: Urban Solace – Café for the Soul; When: June 3, 7.30 pm–9.00 pm**

02 Matcha delights

Experience the delicate, earthy flavours of Matcha at Magnolia Bakery with their limited-edition Matcha Cupcake and indulgent Matcha Cake Slice — now available in stores. **Where: All Magnolia Bakery outlets; When: Throughout June 2025**

03 Ready, steady, go

Join McDonald's India and Stride Run Club for a 3K & 6K run at Atal Bihari Vajpayee Stadium, followed by a live DJ and fun at HSR Layout. **Where: Atal Bihari Vajpayee Stadium & McDonald's, HSR Layout; When: June 1 from 6.30 am onwards**

04 Cricket season

Join the nation's biggest cricket celebrations at SOCIAL, your ultimate Doosra Stadium with giant screens, drink offers, and game-time specials. Gather your squad and experience every thrilling moment together! **Where: SOCIAL outlets across Bengaluru; When: Ongoing during cricket season**

05 Art escape

Art Bengaluru Collective (ABC) is presenting its seventh multi-art exhibition, ABC 7.0, marking the convergence of 25 artists and 250 plus artworks cutting across genres. **Where: Bangalore International Centre, Domlur; When: June 1, 11 am to 8 pm**

Varthur Lake chokes again with untreated sewage

With monsoon rains triggering fresh sewage inflow into Varthur Lake, activists and residents raise concerns over illegal dumping, STP delays, and stalled rejuvenation efforts by authorities

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With the onset of monsoon, Varthur Lake is once again expected to receive rainwater mixed with untreated sewage. While flood control measures are in place, several critical issues remain unresolved.

The residents and lake activists said that as part of the constructed wetland system, the rainwater mixed with sewage from Zone 1 is now being channelled into the lake.

"Unauthorised waste segregation units are dumping low-value and rejected waste directly into the lake along with sewage, without any enforcement or regulation. Sewage volume in the valley has increased, reflecting BWSSB's failure to stop upstream inflow. This is severely impacting BDA's ongoing rejuvenation efforts. The minor irrigation pipeline that cuts through Varthur Lake remains in place. There is no sign of it being relocated to the periphery," said Jagadeesh Reddy of Varthur Rising.

He said the planned Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) at Varthur has not yet commenced, raising concerns over long-term water quality management.

Terming sewage entering the lake as unfortunate, Prof TV Ramachandra, a former member of NGT Monitoring Committee, said sewage is not supposed to enter Varthur Lake. "I think no one is monitoring or operating the sewage treatment plant (STP). The authorities have to ensure functioning of the STP to avoid sewage entering the lake," Prof Ramachandra said.

However, BDA Assistant Executive Engineer Kavitha Krishna said the sewage entered along with rain water. "There is a diversion channel for sewage water," she said.

The minor irrigation pipeline that cuts through Varthur Lake remains in place

Unauthorised waste segregation units are dumping low-value and rejected waste directly into the lake along with sewage, without any enforcement or regulation

Karnataka hikes tobacco fine, raises legal age

The new Act amends the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act, 2003 (Central Act 34 of 2003) as it applies to the state of Karnataka. The amendment specifies that no person shall use tobacco products in any public place. The term "use" includes both smoking and spitting of tobacco. The sale of cigarettes or other tobacco products is now prohibited: To any person under the age of 21 years; within a 100-meter radius of any educational institution; in loose form or as single sticks.

The Act also states that no person shall open or operate a hookah bar, either individually or on behalf of another person, in any location—including eating houses, pubs, bars, or restaurants—regardless of what they are called. According to the new provisions, anyone who violates Section 4A of the Act shall be punishable with: Imprisonment of not less than one year, which may extend up to three years; a fine of not less than Rs 50,000, which may go up to Rs 1 lakh.

The Act further allows that in hotels with 30 or more rooms, restaurants with a seating capacity of 30 or more, and at airports, a designated smoking area or space may be provided. Karnataka joins the league of Rajasthan, Maharashtra, and Gujarat states, which have implemented similar amendments to strengthen public health protections against tobacco use. **— BMB**

CM pulls up DDPIs over poor results

The Chief Minister has instructed the Chief Secretary to issue formal notices to the Deputy Directors of Public Instruction (DDPIs) in districts where the SSLC exam results are below 60%. The CM further directed that if the responses to these notices are found unsatisfactory, strict action should be taken against the concerned officials. Addressing the low SSLC exam results on Saturday, CM Siddaramaiah dismissed excuses citing teacher shortages or staff inadequacies. He noted that only districts like Dakshina Kannada are showing good results, and urged Deputy Directors of Public Instruction (DDPIs), District Commissioners of Public Instruction (DCPIs), and district secretaries to take responsibility by regularly visiting schools and assessing teacher engagement and commitment. He emphasised that sincere efforts by teachers and officials will lead to improved results everywhere. Highlighting the need for fieldwork, the CM warned DDPIs against sitting idle in district offices. They must travel extensively and hold meetings with parents, with CEOs mandated to oversee these efforts. **— BMB**

CSR funds to boost rural school infrastructure

The government has appointed nodal officers to implement the Karnataka Public Schools construction project funded through CSR grants, aimed at providing quality education to students in rural areas. To ensure the successful execution of this initiative, Gunjan Krishna, Industries Development Commissioner, has been appointed as the Coordination Officer, while Khushboo G Chaudhary, Managing Director of Karnataka State Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation, will serve as the Chief Executive Officer. Under this scheme, private organisations are required to build school buildings and infrastructure for Karnataka public schools at designated locations within their operational areas using their CSR funds.

CM directs districts to tackle malnutrition

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday issued strong instructions to officials across the state during a major progress review meeting, saying that districts must work to reduce the percentage of severely malnourished children by at least 1 per cent every year.

Addressing the issue of malnourished children, the CM said that although the problem cannot be eliminated overnight due to social challenges, districts must work to reduce the percentage of severely malnourished children by at least 1 per cent every year. He issued this directive to the Deputy Commissioners of Bidar, Vijayanagar, and Ballari. "There are social reasons why it's not possible to eliminate the issue all at once. Therefore, reducing the percentage by 1 per cent every year can help," he said.

The meeting, attended by ministers and senior bureaucrats, witnessed the CM giving clear directives aimed at improving governance and service delivery. He also emphasised continuous health monitoring of children, including tracking haemoglobin levels, and questioned the lack of visible improvements in nutritional status despite the provision of milk, eggs, and supplements.

"A scientific report must be prepared to understand why there is no progress. Based on that, corrective steps should be taken," the CM said. **— BMB**

Health dept issues Covid advisory for staff

Amid a surge in Covid-19 cases in Karnataka, the Department of Health and Family Welfare Services on Saturday requested people to stay calm, remain vigilant, and work with health authorities to prevent further spread and ensure public safety.

It issued an advisory to Health Care Workers (HCWs) working in Covid and Non-Covid areas of the healthcare facilities in the state.

The health department said the state continues to monitor and manage Covid-19 through ongoing efforts to prevent transmission, detect cases, and provide care. Given the dynamic nature of the disease, sustained vigilance and adherence to public health guidelines are crucial.

"The focus will be on early detection, containment of outbreaks, and monitoring of variants through integrated clinical, laboratory, and community surveillance," it said in a statement.

According to the department, healthcare personnel, as the primary workforce, are at high risk of acquiring Covid-19 if they don't follow proper personal protection protocols while managing patients.

Listing out the essential action points for health staff, it directed them to routinely screen and report Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) and Severe Acute Respiratory Infections (SARI) cases and any such cases with co-morbidities in the P-Form of IDSP-IHIP platform.

The advisory asked the health workers to ensure referral of all SARI cases and 5 percent of ILI cases for RT-PCR testing for Covid-19 at designated facilities as per the time-to-time testing guidelines issued by MD-NHM.

According to the advisory, testing data needs to be uploaded in a timely manner on the IHIP portal. Positivity rates and CT value trends need to be tracked.

"As all healthcare workers are already trained, they can sense the signs and symptoms and hence should ensure immediate reporting of such symptoms," it further stated.

The advisory also stated that IEC activity should be undertaken to promote community observance of hand and respiratory hygiene, hygienic behaviour such as cough etiquette (covering mouth or nose during cough/ sneezing), no spitting in public places, etc.

"Special consideration groups, like the elderly, people with immunodeficiency status, may be advised to avoid crowded places or use a face masks," it said. —PTI

Health first in classrooms

The health department has issued health guidelines for school children. Schools were advised not to send children exhibiting symptoms such as fever, cough, cold, or other related signs to school. Such children should receive appropriate medical advice and treatment before returning. Only after complete recovery should they be allowed back to school. If a child with these symptoms arrives at school, parents must be informed immediately and the child sent home. Similarly, if teachers or other school staff show any such symptoms, they must follow proper precautionary measures. Schools are also instructed to strictly enforce preventive practices such as hand hygiene and cough etiquette in line with Covid-19 Appropriate Behaviour (CAB) protocols.

B'luru reports second Covid death

Bengaluru has recorded its second Covid-related death this season and the fourth overall in Karnataka, with the other fatalities reported from Mysuru and Belagavi earlier. According to the Covid bulletin released on Saturday, a 63-year-old man from Bengaluru, who was undergoing post-operative chemotherapy for squamous cell carcinoma along with pulmonary tuberculosis, passed away on May 29 at a private hospital. He was admitted on May 21. The health department clarified that the cause of death was sagittal sinus and internal jugular vein thrombosis, accompanied by cancer cachexia, with Covid-19 detected incidentally.

On the same day, Karnataka reported 58 new Covid cases, registering a test positivity rate of 13.8%. Currently, seven patients are hospitalised across the state, with one in the ICU and the others in general wards. —BMB

India's Covid cases rise

The number of active Covid-19 cases in India has crossed 3,000, with Kerala accounting for the highest at 1,336, followed by Maharashtra and Delhi, Union health ministry data released on Saturday showed.

According to the data, four deaths, one each in Delhi, Kerala, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh -- have been reported in the country in the last 24 hours.

Official sources said the Covid-19 situation in India is being closely monitored.

The severity of infections is low, with most of the patients under home care. There were 257 active cases in the country on May 22. —BMB

INDIRA GANDHI RASHTRIYA URAN AKADEMI
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Corrigendum

IGRUA invites applications from interested and experienced candidates for the post of **ASSISTANT FLYING INSTRUCTOR** and **FLYING INSTRUCTOR** on contract basis. In which the age limit has been changed. For more information, candidates can visit the career page on the official website of IGRUA **https://igrua.gov.in/.**

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Safety protocol for roadside vehicle checks

In response to two tragic incidents—a child's death in Mandya and a police officer's death in Davangere—the Karnataka police have been instructed to implement stricter safety protocols during vehicle checks across the state.

A circular by DG & IGP MA Saleem highlights negligence in road safety measures during traffic enforcement. In Mandya, improper vehicle checks caused a fatal accident involving a child. In Davangere, a police officer was struck and killed by a speeding canter during a vehicle check on May 13, 2025. As per the new directive, police are barred from stopping vehicles arbitrarily; only violators may be stopped. Abrupt halts in risky areas and zig-zag barricades on highways are prohibited. Officers must avoid intrusive behaviour like snatching keys or pulling riders off vehicles.

Speeding vehicles must be tracked via registration numbers through control points—eliminating risky pursuits. Officers must wear reflective jackets, use LED batons at night, and wear body cameras. TTMS and TMC units are advised to adopt automated, contactless enforcement.

Public awareness campaigns will promote traffic rules. Law-and-order police are discouraged from conducting roadblocks on highways. Speeding vehicles must not be stopped directly but monitored using technology, and FTVR should be registered accordingly. Rubber cones should be placed 100–150 meters ahead of checkpoints. All Commissioners and SPs must ensure strict compliance to protect public and police lives. **— BMB**

Birds' Reserve staring at ecological collapse threat

Once a haven for migratory birds, Puttenahalli Lake now chokes with hyacinth and sewage, as locals question BBMP's flawed lake restoration approach

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The Yelahanka-Puttenahalli Bird Conservation Reserve is in shambles. A pristine water body up until last year, which was a preferred destination for many migratory birds, is now on the brink of losing its ecosystem. The lake's surface is completely covered with hyacinth. The alarming spread of hyacinth has led to the death of fish and other flora in the water body.

Earlier this month, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) permitted the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to construct a 600-meter sewer line inside the reserve area to ensure that sewage is not released into the lake during the upcoming monsoon. However, sewage continues to flow in as the BBMP has turned the lake area upside down.

"BBMP has started the work a few days ago, and it is far from completion. They are digging only a few meters away from the lake, and recent rain has led to water rushing into the pipe hole being created by them. They are digging, then pumping out water and digging again," it is a mess," said a member of Yelahanka Puttenahalli Lake and Bird Conservation Trust (YPLBCT).

Locals underline that water is being pumped from a pit where a sewage line is being installed, located just one meter from the lake shoreline. The pit is over four meters deep, while the lake depth at that spot is only about one meter. They worry that this deep excavation so close to the lake edge may weaken the lake bund and lead to a potential collapse.

Trust members yet again highlight the need for a detailed project report and say the stay order on the construction of the sewer line along the disputed 600-meter stretch has been modified, permitting authorities to begin work immediately to prevent sewage from entering Puttenahalli Lake during the monsoon. However, it is unclear where this sewage would come from, as Ananthapura and over 100 surrounding villages do not yet have dedicated sewage lines connected to this pipeline.

Hyacinth has taken over Puttenahalli Bird Conservation Reserve

"The reserve area is spoiled. Fish have moved to the shallow end of the lake due to lack of oxygen and are dying. BBMP should stop digging and first come up with a DPR for the project. During heavy rains, both sewage and stormwater continue to flow directly into the lake. This new pipeline, therefore, does not address the core issue of lake pollution. If it cannot intercept or divert actual sewage, what purpose does it serve at this stage?" questioned a member.

Sewage first started entering the lake reserve in May last year, due to an incomplete stormwater drain built by the BBMP. Following this, BBMP began pipe laying work inside and around the lake boundary by digging a walking path around the lake, with required permission from the Karnataka Forest Department. The Trust approached the NGT, and the Tribunal restrained BBMP from carrying out any work. It also ordered the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) and BBMP to prevent sewage from entering the Reserve.

Flood rescue: More boats in city's armoury

BBMP to purchase 4 motorboats and rescue gear to aid quicker evacuations during monsoon floods across localities that get waterlogged frequently

With frequent heavy rains turning several Bengaluru neighbourhoods into waterlogged islands, boats are no longer just emergency equipment—they're fast becoming a necessity. As residential layouts face repeated flooding and road access gets cut off, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is stepping up its preparedness. The civic body has now proposed the purchase of four motor-powered boats and other disaster response tools to ensure quicker and more efficient rescue operations during the monsoon season.

A BBMP official said, "In recent weeks, heavy rainfall in Bengaluru turned over 50 localities into virtual islands. Floodwaters submerged roads leading to these areas, cutting them off completely. To evacuate stranded residents, BBMP had to rely on the boats of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF). With flooding becoming a recurring concern, the civic body has now decided to procure its own disaster management equipment."

Nine different rescue tools, including four boats, to be procured

At an estimated cost of ₹62 lakh, BBMP plans to purchase four motorboats with a seating capacity of 12 people each, 48 life jackets, 48 body jackets, 8,000 meters of rescue rope, 30-watt torches, 74 bolt cutters, and water pumps. A BBMP official added, "Due to erratic weather patterns, Bengaluru is frequently experiencing flood-like situations. In such times, we've had to depend on SDRF, NDRF, and the Fire and Emergency Services Department for rescue operations. To enable quicker local response, BBMP is now investing in its own disaster management infrastructure, including boats." However, citizens have urged the civic body to focus more on long-term flood mitigation strategies to ensure that such emergency measures are not frequently required. **— BMB**

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Unsafe passage

Nagapura

Construction debris, iron rods, and sand dumped carelessly on the road in Nagapura pose a serious hazard to pedestrians, especially during the night near a residential society.

Road neglect

Kaverappa Layout

Years of civic neglect have left Millers Road in Kaverappa Layout riddled with potholes, accumulated silt, and untarred patches, prompting residents to demand immediate intervention.

Pothole peril

Frazer Town

Potholes have turned Stephens Road in Frazer Town into a commuter's nightmare—particularly perilous on rainy nights—prompting urgent calls for civic intervention before accidents rise.

THE SUNDAY READ

Tow & behold

Bengaluru's towing return sparks fear of harassment despite police promises of transparency

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The announcement of towing resuming in Bengaluru to decongest traffic has sparked sharp criticism and mixed reactions from citizens, with many raising concerns over past misuse, corruption, and harassment. While the civic body insists the move is aimed at curbing illegal parking and improving traffic flow, Bengaluru residents worry it could revive what they describe as a "towing mafia."

The towing system, previously discontinued following widespread complaints in 2022, is now set to make a comeback. Instead of outsourcing the task to third-party tow contractors, the towing will be carried out by police vehicles and personnel, Home Minister G Parameshwara stated in a recent meeting. He explained that 19 places across the city face severe problems during rains, including eight that experience high levels of traffic congestion.

Officials insist that the reinstated towing system is purely aimed at easing traffic congestion caused by wrongful parking. "There will be no harassment or bribery this time. To ensure transparency, the department will use its own vehicles and traffic police personnel for towing operations. No new guidelines are required, and only parking fines will be levied," said City Police Commissioner B Dayananda. However, the assurance hasn't convinced everyone.

"Bringing back towing is like opening the gates for bribery again. Last time, they towed cars even from legal parking zones and demanded cash on the spot," said a resident of Koramangala. "It's not about discipline anymore, it becomes a business."

Several Bengalureans took to social media to express their displeasure, calling it a step backwards. In X (formerly Twitter), Bhaskar Rao, former IPS and Commissioner of police, Bengaluru, posted, "Bengaluru city has no parking policy, no footpath pedestrians policy and no street vendors and Hawking Policy. By bringing back the towing mafia, fear, threat, bribery, and harassment will also return. Poor street design and mismanaged urban planning are taking a toll on ordinary, law-abiding citizens, now left at the mercy of aggressive towing squads. @CMofKarnataka should intervene to prevent harassment of citizens."

Is this the #BrandBengaluru we aspire to?" asked Citizen Matters, a civic-focused organisation. "Instead of unleashing the towing mafia, the Chief Minister must focus on real reforms: publish and implement a comprehensive, participatory Urban Mobility and Public Space Policy; decriminalise survival by legalising and regulating street vending; and adopt a 'build first, enforce later' approach by creating infrastructure before penalising its absence. Law-abiding citizens should not be terrorised for the government's shortcomings. Fix the system—don't scapegoat the people."

Meanwhile, another user stated, "Now we're supporting the worst kind of people? Those who illegally park vehicles on roads! I have driven cars for 15 years now in Bengaluru, and never have any of them been towed. Not even a ticket. I welcome the Police instilling the fear of towing on these lawbreakers."

Urban mobility experts agree that illegal parking is a serious concern that must be addressed. "Urban towing is necessary to manage city traffic, but its success depends on a transparent process, well-defined policies, appropriate fines, and strict enforcement in no-tolerance zones such as traffic junctions, bus stops, and metro stations," said Vinod Jacob of Namma Bengaluru Foundation. "However, a major part of the problem stems from private tour operators and yellow cabs. There needs to be a targeted solution to address their parking challenges."

However, over 2.19 lakh wrong parking cases have been reported till April this year, underscoring the severity of the city's traffic congestion issues. Authorities claim the revived towing system is a necessary step to address this. While some hope the revised system will bring order to chaotic roads, many fear it could lead to renewed harassment, bribery, and inconvenience unless strict oversight is ensured.

"There will be no harasment or bribery this time. To ensure transparency, the department will use its own vehicles and traffic police personnel for towing operations. No new guidelines are required
– B Dayananda, Police Commissioner

Industries skip pollution fines

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The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) has not yet received Environmental Compensation (EC) from various industries, responsible for polluting the Phalguni River.

In 2023, the Board had imposed a total EC of a little over Rs 2.21 crores on six industries discharging untreated sewage into the river. The compensation was levied following a report by a joint committee appointed by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) to investigate a fish kill episode at Phalguni in April 2022.

As per KSPCB, none of the six industries has paid the compensation.

"To date, none of the industries have paid the environmental compensation. They (industries) have submitted a request letter to the head office to waive the compensation," KSPCB has informed.

In April 2022, NGT had passed an order following a news report that highlighted that hundreds of fish were found dead after untreated industrial effluent entered the water body. Following the episode, the green court sent notices to authorities concerned and ordered the constitution of a five-member committee to restore the water quality of the river and to suggest measures to mitigate pollution in and around Phalguni. KSPCB was made the nodal agency for coordination and compliance

The committee conducted water quality analysis of samples collected in October 2022 and found certain anomalies. The analysis results of the samples indicate a BOD level of 4 to 18 mg/l, DO of 3.3 mg/l to 6.7 mg/l, except at one place where it was 0.3 mg/l, and microbial load of >1600 MPN/100 ml and pH between 6.7 to 7.4 units. Results show that the river water meets the Central Pollution Control Board's designated best-use standard of Class-C, except for BOD values.

The committee has observed that while there are residential and commercial developments on either side of the river, there is no underground drainage in certain areas. Even in sewered areas, there are missing links and gaps. It also noted that sewage water was entering the stream at multiple locations. The report suggested a detailed investigation of sewage being discharged into the stream by industries, businesses, and residential localities on both sides of the river.

Taking cognizance of the release of untreated industrial effluents into the water bodies, including Phalguni River, the green court mentioned that the situation indicates a violation of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, and the provisions of the Environment Protection Act, 1986 and that industrial units operating in the Baikampady industrial area have been polluting Phalguni by discharging untreated wastewater. Following this observation, notices were sent to KSPCB, etc.

KRS reservoir hits 100 feet in rare May surge

Early monsoon rain drives unexpected rise, easing fears of drought in southern Karnataka

Early monsoon showers cause rapid surge in KRS water levels

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The water level in the Krishnarajasagar (KRS) reservoir, the lifeline supplying drinking water to Bengaluru, has crossed the 100 feet mark in May itself — a rare occurrence in the dam's history. Typically, the KRS reservoir reaches the 100-feet level only during June or July. However, this year marks only the fourth time ever that the water level has crossed the century mark as early as May. In past decades, such levels were mostly recorded in June, with a few instances in July or even August, especially when the monsoon arrived late.

This year's early rise is being credited to the timely onset of the southwest monsoon in the Cauvery River basin. The reservoir, which has a full capacity of 124.80 feet, remained below capacity in 2023 due to severe drought conditions. In comparison, it reached the 100-feet level on May 11 in 2022, while in 2023, the same level was not reached until July 25. As of May 30, this year, the water level stood at 100.10 feet.

"The reservoir has already crossed the 100-feet mark towards the end of May. With the monsoon already underway, we expect the reservoir to fill up quickly," said K Raghuram, Superintendent Engineer, Cauvery Neeravari Nigama, Mandya.

Currently, KRS holds 22.888 TMC (thousand million cubic feet) of water. Of this, 14.509 TMC is usable for agriculture, which comes as a relief for farmers preparing for the sowing season. Another 8.379 TMC is classified as dead storage — water that cannot be accessed for use — while 3.979 TMC accounts for losses due to evaporation and seepage.

"The reservoir has already crossed the 100-feet mark by May end. With the monsoon underway, we expect the reservoir to fill up quickly"

–K Raghuram, Superintendent Engineer

The water level had recently dipped to 99.04 feet following the last spillway overflow. However, steady rainfall in the catchment areas has resulted in a sharp increase, easing concerns over potential water shortages in the coming months.

Farmers and residents, who were bracing for a difficult summer after an unusually hot and dry February, are now breathing easier. The early monsoon has helped replenish crucial water reserves, boosting hopes of adequate supply for both drinking and irrigation through the season.

Crossing the 100-feet mark in May remains a rare occurrence in the history of the dam. Historical data dating back to 1946 shows that the reservoir first touched 100 feet on May 22, 1954, when it reached 100.20 feet. It happened again on May 28, 1961, rising to 100.63 feet. After a 61-year gap, the reservoir reached the same milestone on May 11, 2022 — the earliest ever on record.

Meanwhile, the Harangi reservoir across the Kabini river, a tributary of the Cauvery is also witnessing a steep rise in inflow. By the end of May, it stood just 13 feet short of full capacity, an unprecedented development for this time of year.

Seat matrix delay derails CET 2024 counselling across Karnataka

Over 650 colleges miss deadline, triggering panic and potential delays for 2.75 lakh aspirants

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The delay in submission of seat matrix by engineering, medical, and nursing colleges to the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) has raised serious concerns about the smooth conduct of the seat allotment process for CET 2024 aspirants. Despite the official deadline of May 23, over 650 institutions have failed to provide details of available seats, leading to fears of potential delays and confusion during the counselling phase. KEA had issued two reminders after the deadline, but many institutions continue to remain unresponsive.

This year, 3.11 lakh students appeared for the Common Entrance Test (CET), of which 2.75 lakh have qualified. The centralized allotment process depends on timely and accurate seat matrix data, without which the schedule could be severely affected.

As per the seat matrix data received so far, only 85,259 out of the total 1,11,294 seats across various professional courses have been submitted to KEA. This shortfall is causing widespread anxiety among students and parents who fear delays in counselling may hinder deserving candidates from securing seats in their preferred courses.

An official from KEA said that engineering accounts for the largest intake with 79,907 seats, but only 66,254 have been reported so far. Pharmacy colleges have submitted 2,826 out of 3,227 seats. In Food Science, 329 out of 365 seats have been reported. Nursing colleges have reported just 12,970 out of 24,642 seats, and Yoga institutions have submitted 283 out of 408 seats. Agriculture has fared slightly better, with 2,168 out of 2,302 seats reported. Veterinary Sciences stands out as the only discipline with 100% submission—316 seats reported in full—while Sericulture has reported only 55 out of 72 seats.

Colleges delay seat matrix, jeopardizing CET 2024 allotment

"Departments consistently delay seat matrix approval. Full data is still missing, inevitably delaying the CET process

–KEA Executive Director H Prasanna

KEA Executive Director H. Prasanna acknowledged the delay and pointed out that multiple departments are yet to submit their respective seat matrices. "Every year, some departments delay approval. This year too, despite repeated appeals, we have not received complete data. This will inevitably affect the CET process," he said.

Karnataka has a vast network of institutions—224 engineering colleges, 26 architecture colleges, 97 AYUSH institutions, 65 medical colleges, 38 dental colleges, 16 homeopathy colleges, 5 naturopathy colleges, 126 B. Pharm colleges, 38 Pharm D colleges, and 14 yoga education institutions. Each must submit caste-wise seat data to KEA to ensure a fair and efficient allotment process.

Officials urge all departments to submit seat matrix promptly to prevent student losses. **–BMB**

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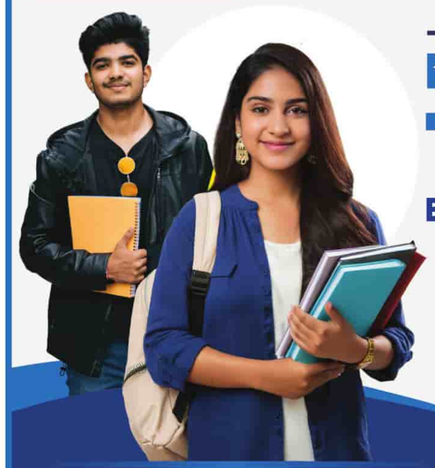

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VTU declares practical results in an hour

Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) in Belagavi has set a record by declaring the results of its final year engineering practical examination within just one hour of the exam's completion. The practical exam concluded at 5:30 PM, and the results were announced by 6.30 pm the same evening. Students received their results directly on their registered mobile numbers, showcasing VTU's improved efficiency and commitment to timely academic processes.

VTU Vice-Chancellor Dr S Vidyashankar said the theory exams ended on May 26, followed by practicals held from May 27 to 30. "We began evaluating theory answer scripts immediately after the exams. Once the practical marks were compiled, they were integrated with the theory scores, and the final results were released within an hour of the last exam," he said.

This marks a major shift from the university's previous pattern of delayed result announcements. VTU has introduced several reforms in its examination since last year. **–BMB**

Bengaluru unites to power youth-driven tobacco-free drive

On World No Tobacco Day, Bengaluru City Police organised a panel discussion uniting doctors, police officials, education leaders, and youth representatives to highlight the city's ongoing battle toward a tobacco-free environment. The discussion showcased Bengaluru's remarkable progress—from smoke-filled public spaces and littered cigarette butts to active enforcement of no-smoking laws and widespread public awareness.

Speaking at the discussion, Dr Vrinda noted that smoking is more than just an addiction, it is a deeply rooted behaviour, often triggered by emotional and environmental factors. Dr Riaz Bhasha highlighted peer pressure and media portrayal as key influences behind tobacco use among students. He encouraged young people to raise awareness and explore healthier ways of managing stress, adding that cultural and religious values also play a vital role in discouraging tobacco use.

Youth-led signage drives empower Bengaluru's anti-smoking movement

Addressing concerns about enforcement near educational institutions, Police Commissioner B Dayanand clarified that while there is no dedicated task force, all police personnel are authorised to act against tobacco-related violations. He emphasised community involvement and interdepartmental coordination as central to enforcement efforts.

Commissioner Dayanand urges expanded youth outreach. **–Achala Nataraj**

Eye on social media miscreants

The Karnataka government has intensified surveillance of social media to curb provocative content amid rising communal tensions in the coastal regions. Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara said strict legal action will be taken against those promoting communal disharmony online. "We are closely watching social media platforms. Any posts inciting communal hatred will be dealt with as per the law," he said. **–BMB**

NSIC south hub in Peenya

In a significant boost to skill development in the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector, Union Minister of State for MSMEs Shobha Karandlaje announced that the National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) will soon establish its first southern India branch in Peenya Industrial Area, Bengaluru. He said Peenya, home to the highest concentration of MSMEs in the country was selected for its strategicimportance.– **BMB**

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'People turning to online spaces to defame, harass others'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to be someone else online, and mental harassment for the emotional harm allegedly inflicted on the family. The complainant has urged the authorities to trace the origin of the emails and take appropriate legal action against those responsible, under applicable cybercrime and defamation laws.

This incident sheds light on how personal conflicts are increasingly taking a digital turn, raising concerns about the misuse of technology in family disputes and the emotional toll of online harassment. A senior police officer confirmed that the case is under investigation. This is one of the few instances where the family has formally sought legal action against a family member for cyber harassment.

Experts note that such incidents are becoming more common as digital tools are increasingly misused in family feuds. With the ease of creating fake identities online, personal grievances are now being played out in emails, social media, and messaging platforms, often leaving lasting emotional and legal consequences.

"This is part of a larger trend," said a Bengaluru-based cyber expert. "We're seeing more cases where individuals, often out of anger or frustration, turn to digital platforms to defame, harass, or impersonate others, especially within families."

The case underscores the importance of digital accountability and the growing role of cyber law enforcement in resolving deeply personal disputes.

Authorities are urging individuals to be more aware of how their actions online can have serious legal outcomes, particularly in situations where emotions run high.

We have squeezed our city dry

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

units in urban and rural Bengaluru – Nelamangala, Devanahalli, Hoskote, Doddaballapura, Bengaluru East, Bengaluru South, Yelahanka, Bengaluru City, Anekal, and Bengaluru North - are over-exploited.

Bengaluru Urban is also the biggest contributor of domestic and industrial extraction across the state. The district has more than 27,000 industrial wells, the highest in Karnataka. However, experts say, this number could be much higher as the exact data on industrial wells is not available with any single agency.

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), in association with a non-profit organisation, has so far dug nearly 4,500 recharge wells across more than 300 parks in the city. Experts say that while this effort to replenish the resource is a welcome one, such initiatives from private individuals and organisations could go a long way.

"Apart from digging recharge wells, BBMP is also reviving city lakes, and this will lead to substantial recharge of the groundwater table. However, citizens, especially large institutions, need to participate in such initiatives. Every campus, whether commercial or residential, should have recharge

wells," said S Vishwanath, a city-based water expert.

Experts also underline that CGWB's analysis of the groundwater scenario is not good enough to chalk out an action plan to manage the resource.

"CGWB's reports are not granular enough. Ideally, there should be different plans to manage each sub-aquifer to improve the groundwater table. To do that, there should be at least 200 assessment units in the BBMP limit, in contrast to 5 units that CGWB uses. This granular data should then be used to draw a plan to improve the groundwater table," added Vishwanath.

Karnataka scenario

The CGWB, in its report, has also highlighted that in Karnataka, out of 237 assessed units, 45 were found to be over-exploited (extraction of water is more than 100%), 15 were critical, and 33 were found to be semi-critical.

Experts opine that groundwater availability and extraction should be balanced. However, both these figures indicate that in 5 districts viz., Bengaluru (Rural), Bengaluru (Urban), Chikkaballapura, Chitradurga, and Kolara, the extraction is more than availability (>100%).

Moreover, the domestic extraction and industrial extraction across the state have increased by 10.30% and 46.30%.

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personal

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I, SYED SALMAN AMEEN R/a14 Flt 006 Elegant springdale Apt Kemp Rd Frazer Tn Bengaluru-5 I, have changed my name to SYED SALMAAN AMEEN vide affidavit dated 28.05.2025 Sworn before notary Meer Hussain Bangalore

I Veerabhadrappa Yaragudda, S/o Rajappa, r/o No.420, 2nd floor, 5th Main Road, 2nd Block, BSK 3rd Stage, Kathriguppe, Bengaluru 560085 have changed my name to Veerabhadrappa R Y for all purposes.

I Abdul Khader Tahair S/O Abdul Razakh R/at 70/1-2 5th cross, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, RT Nagar, Bangalore , Karnataka - 560032 Have Changed My Name To Abdul Khader Tahir, For All Purposes

I, PRESANNA KUMARI T W/O V Raveendran Kutty R/O 19, Aswathy, 6th cross, Akshaya Nagar, Bangalore has changed name to Prasanna Ravindran affidavit dt: 21/05/2025 notary Sadhasivappa, Bangalore.

HEALTH TIP: Rainwater can contain pollution residue so if you get drenched, use a gentle, hydrating cleanser, to clean your skin

Dark chocolate is a good source of magnesium; it also has antioxidants

BangaloreMirror | 12
Sunday, June 1, 2025
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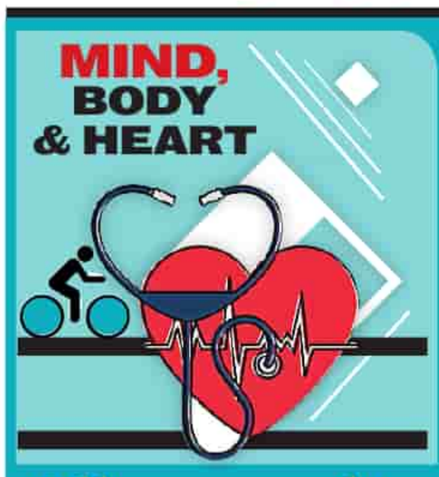

All you need to know about...

Gut-healthy foods for skin

1. Yoghurt and Other Fermented Foods
Naturally rich in probiotics, fermented foods like yoghurt, kefir, and kimchi help balance your gut microbiome. This reduces inflammation and can calm skin issues like acne, redness, and dullness.

2. Avocados
Full of fibre, healthy fats, and antioxidants like vitamin E, avocados soothe the digestive tract and keep your skin soft and hydrated. Their anti-inflammatory properties also help reduce flare-ups and sensitivity.

3. Leafy Greens
Spinach, kale, and other leafy greens are loaded with fibre and phytonutrients that cleanse the digestive system. Their chlorophyll and vitamin C content also support collagen production for firmer, brighter skin.

4. Berries
Blueberries, strawberries, and raspberries are packed with antioxidants and gut-friendly fibre. They combat free radicals, reduce inflammation, and protect the skin from premature ageing and environmental stress.

5. Bananas
Bananas are an excellent source of prebiotics, which feed good gut bacteria. Their high potassium content also helps maintain skin hydration and balance oil production, keeping your complexion fresh and healthy.

6. Sweet Potatoes
Sweet potatoes are rich in fibre and beta-carotene, a skin-loving antioxidant that your body converts to vitamin A. They support smooth digestion and give your skin a sun-kissed glow from the inside out.

7. Pumpkin Seeds
These tiny seeds are packed with zinc, a key nutrient for skin healing and immune function. Their fibre supports gut regularity while also helping control acne, blemishes, and signs of ageing on the skin.

Femina

BERRY DELISH

Unique mulberry recipes that celebrate the best of the season

MULBERRY JAM

INGREDIENTS
- 4 cups fresh mulberries (rinsed, stems removed)
- 2 cups sugar (adjust to taste)
- 2 tbsp. lemon juice
- ½ tsp lemon zest (optional)

METHOD
- Prepare the Mulberries: Wash and stem the mulberries.
- Cook the Jam Base: In a saucepan, combine the mulberries, sugar, and lemon juice. Gently mash.
- Simmer & Thicken: Bring the mixture to a boil, then simmer for 20–30 minutes on low heat, stirring often, until the jam thickens.
- Test for Doneness: To check if it's ready, test it by placing a spoonful on a chilled plate — if it wrinkles when pushed, it's ready.
- Finish & Store: Stir in lemon zest (optional). Pour the hot jam into sterilized jars and seal it tightly, and refrigerate. For longer storage, process the jars using standard canning methods.

Recipe by Chef Rahul Istwal, Angsana Oasis Resort and Spa, Bengaluru

MULBERRY, FETA AND ARUGULA SALAD

INGREDIENTS

For Salad
- Arugula Lettuce 250 Gms
- Mulberries (Locally Sourced) 100 Gms
- Feta Cheese 50 Gms

For Dressing
- Extra Virgin Olive Oil 15 Ml
- Lemon Juice 1 Tbsp
- Dijon Mustard 1 Tsp
- Minced Garlic 2 Nos
- Salt & Pepper As per Taste

METHOD
- Wash and dry all the ingredients thoroughly.
- In a bowl, whisk together all dressing ingredients until well emulsified.
- In a separate bowl, combine the salad ingredients and season with salt and pepper
- Pour the dressing over the salad and toss well to coat evenly.
- Serve in a bowl, top with crumbled feta, garnish with a balsamic drizzle, and serve.

— Recipe by Executive Chef Ho Chi Ming, Renaissance Bengaluru Race Course Hotel

MULBERRY AND PROBIOTIC SHRIKHAND

INGREDIENTS
- Mulberries 100 gms
- Yoghurt plain 200 gms
- Probiotic milk 25 ml
- Icing sugar 25 gms
- Chopped nuts 10 gms

METHOD
- Hang the yoghurt in a muslin or cheesecloth in the refrigerator to drain excess whey.
- Blend mulberries, yoghurt, and icing sugar until smooth.
- Combine the hung yoghurt and mulberry puree with fresh mulberry chunks.
- Serve chilled in a bowl or glass, garnished with fresh mulberries and chopped nuts.

Executive Chef, Gaurav Paul, Bengaluru Marriott Hotel Whitefield

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Family story

Vijay Bharadwaj, who is known for Kannada tele serials, has turned director and hero in Sandalwood with the film Namo Venkatesaya. Prior to this, Bharadwaj has worked as associate for veteran director TN Seetharam.

"Our movie is a family entertainer. It revolves around two people belonging to two generations. The

movie explains how thoughts and opinions of one generation have an impact on the people from another generation. The movie has no violence," said Bharadwaj

The trailer of the movie was unveiled recently. The team has launched promotional activities for the movie. Srinivas Gejjelagere has bankrolled the movie under the Arush Pictures banner.

Anvitha Sagar, known for her sterling performance in tele serial Gattimela, is paired opposite Vijay Bharadwaj in the movie. Shyam Sundar, Nagaraja Rao, Ravikumar, Deepa, Manjunath Hegde, and Sudha Prasanna are the other members of the cast.

"I play Rashmi, an architecture student, in the movie. My character in the movie has two shades. I defy my father's order and fall in love with a boy," Anvitha said.

Small screen treat

Nandagokula, a family-oriented tele serial, is set to hit the small screen from June 4. The serial has an ensemble cast including Aravind Rao, Amrutha Naidu, Ravi Chetan, Raghu Mandya, Abhisekh Das, Yashvant, Vijay Chandra, Oorjita Valtaje, Archaya Gaikwad, Navya, Megha, Krishna Priya, and Shailaja.

It is said the tele serial reflects the story of every father who struggles to make his children somebody in society. The tele serial revolves around Nandakumar, an orphan, who aspires to make it big in life. He falls in love with Girija, the sister

of Suryakant and Chandrakant who own a provision store. Suryakant and Chandrakant disapprove as Nandakumar is an orphan and has no means to make both ends meet. Nandakumar opens Girija Stores, a provision store opposite the store of Suryakant and Chandrakant. Nandakumar earns money and becomes a challenge to them.

Rashmika's mantra

Actress Rashmika Mandanna's compassionate and practical reply to a dejected fan seeking advice on how to deal with "everything going wrong" is now fast winning hearts online.

A fan tweeted to Rashmika saying, "What do you do when you hit the lowest phase of your life...how to deal with everything going wrong??? Not willing to live... just feeling worthless. Suggestions please!"

> You just breathe, surround yourself with people you trust-have faith

Responding to the fan's tweet, Rashmika on Saturday said, "You just breathe, surround yourself with people you trust-have faith that this day will pass- and you do the same thing tomorrow- and day after and before you know it, you'll see that you are feeling better-and you'll be so proud of yourself for going and growing through it."

Rashmika's reply is now coming in for appreciation from a lot of her fans who seem to find her advice practical.

It may be recalled that the actress, who shares a close bond with her fans, had also gone to the aid of the director of her upcoming film 'The Girlfriend' recently.

Rashmika, who plays the lead in 'The Girlfriend', came to the aid of her director Rahul Ravindran on the social media platform X after her fans, who were unhappy about the makers not releasing enough updates about the film, began trending the topic #ReleaseTheGirfriend. — IANS

Lackluster acting and a wayward script

THAYAVVA

2.0 RATING ★★☆☆☆

- **DIRECTOR** Sathvik Pavan
- **ACTORS** Geetha Priya, Mahesh and others
- **CERTIFICATION** U
- **DURATION** 123 minutes

Director Sathvik Pavan has selected a good script for this movie with a message to society. The movie also highlights the adverse impact of gender discrimination on girls living in villages and cities. Butthe director failed to ensure a crisp and convincing screenplay that the audience could find engaging.

A major portion of the movie is shot in a village that has no maternity home. The villagers have access to a big temple but no hospital. Most of the scenes in the village make it seem like the movie is just a vehicle to promote its producer (Geetha Priya) as an actress rather than sparing a thought for the plight of hapless audiences. Geetha Priya plays Thayavva, a midwife, in the movie. She is seen wandering from one place to the other place wearing costly clothes, holding a walking stick for impact.

The movie begins at a school where a teacher is asking students what their passion and ambitions are. Pallavi, one of the students, tells the teacher that she wants to become a boy.

Pallavi narrates how her grandmother gives importance to her brother Chandan and ill treats her because she is a girl. Later, the scene is shifted to a village where Thayavva (Geetha Priya) helps pregnant women in the village.

At this juncture, director narrates how Thayavva became a victim of child marriage and how her husband died of a snake bite and how her parents were killed in a fire accident. What happens to Thayavva and how she prevents child marriages and saves a pregnant woman is what the movie is all about.

As far as the performances of the actors are concerned, there is nothing to celebrate. Sadly the performance of Geetha Priya shows that she was too eager to appear on the silver screen rather than get some basic training in acting before facing the camera. The other actor is Mahesh, the brother of actor Yogesh aka Loose Mada, who is seen standing quietly in most of the scenes.

You can watch this film if you have nothing else planned.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

FARNAZ

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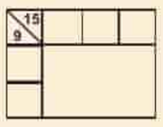
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

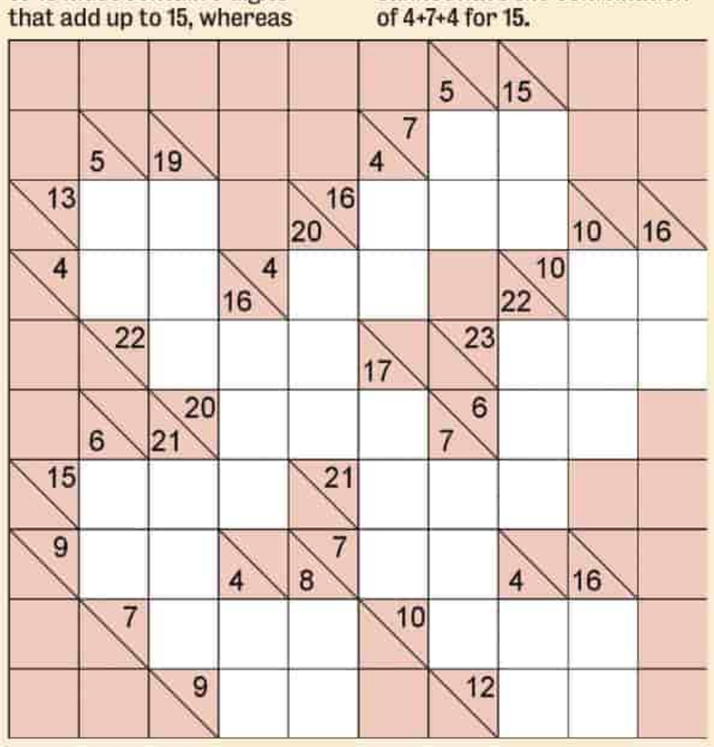
(2^3 x 4^-2) ÷ 8^-2 = ?

Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



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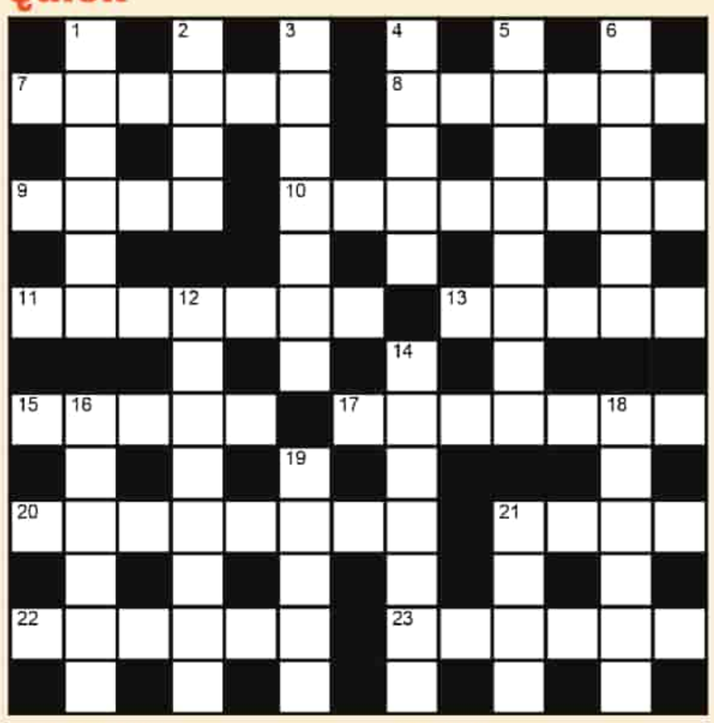


ACROSS

7 Japanese plant growing art (6)
8 Cuisine which is a fusion of Kodava and Mangalorean (6)
9 A long way off (4)
10 Convince (4,4)
11 Comes down, as of a bird (7)
13 Woo (5)
15 Leave at once! (5)
17 Withdraws, gives up or escapes? (4,3)
20 Writing paper (8)
21 Narrow cut (4)
22 Another word for "kabbadi" (2,2,2)
23 Leaning (6)

DOWN

1 Distressing (6)
2 Internet patron (4)
3 Lay down the law (7)
4 Show amusement (5)
5 US state (8)
6 Second of two (6)
12 Make every possible effort ? (2,3,3)
14 Take part in a contest (7)
16 Singers in harmony (6)
18 Merges or brings together (6)
19 Behave badly (3,2)
21 Fine fabric (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: O EQUALS T

OTV IUO CG WCAV BQ WIURVWJ OTV IUO CG HVUQBQOVSFV.

Linemaro

I am a great cook. What kind of food do you like?

Mindchow

The highest reward for a person's toil is not what they get for it, but what they become by it

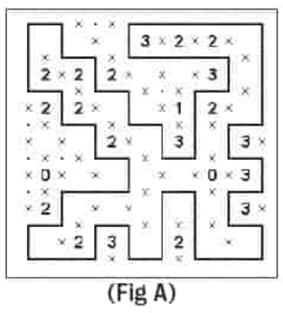
Joke of the day

Most jobs resemble a sled dog team. No dogs get a change of scenery except the lead dog

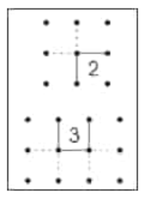
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

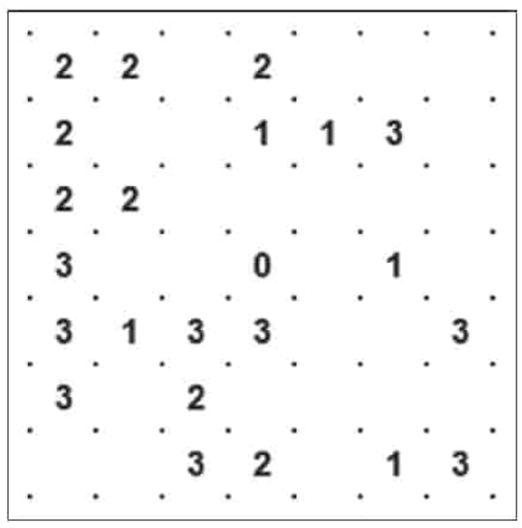


(Fig B) Not Allowed

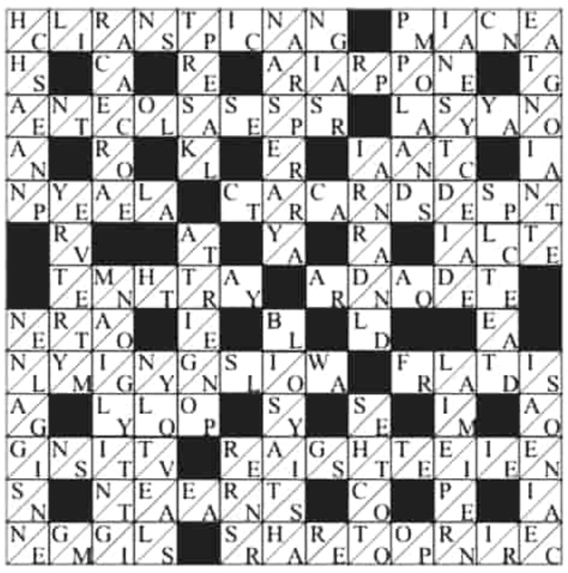
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



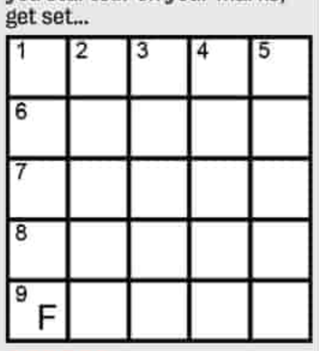
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

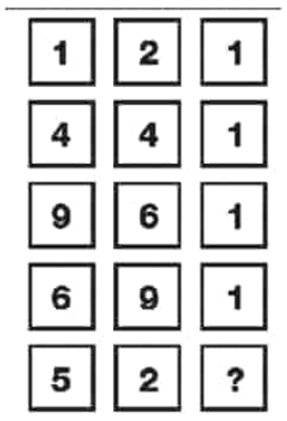
1 Sad Sh; 6 Tonal; 7 Lutra; 8 Frail; 9 Co Ref

DOWN

1 Tuffs; 2 Holla; 3 Tra-la; 4 Cord I; 5 Nears

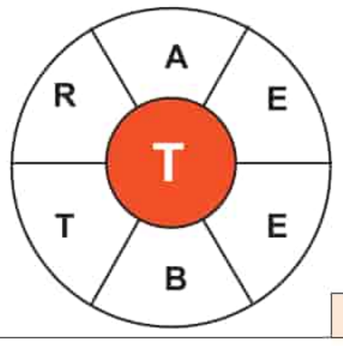
Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?



1	2	1
4	4	1
9	6	1
6	9	1
5	2	?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

15 Average; 17 Good; 19 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		2	3	5				4
1			6			5		
					8	9		
2	9				4	7		
	6		7		5		4	
		7	9				1	6
		4	8					
		6			9			2
5				2	3	6		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy

= 12

1 3 4 4

Medium

= 15

7 7 7 8

Hard

= 19

2 4 5 5

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

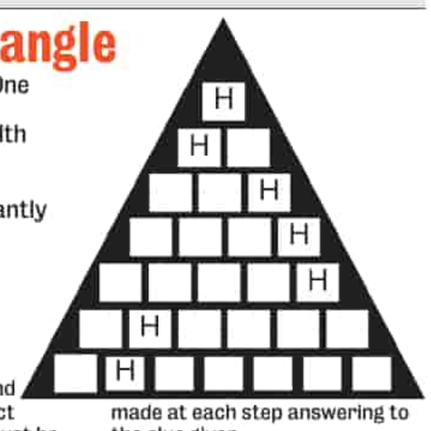
Differences: 1. Bottom of shirt is different. 2. Arm is longer. 3. Mouth is not open as wide. 4. Window is moved. 5. Man's hair is different. 6. Door is not as wide.

Riddler

Three philosophers are taking a nap under a tree. While they're asleep, a small boy smears their noses with red berries. When they awake, they each begin to laugh, thinking the other two are laughing at each other. But then one philosopher stops laughing, realizing his nose is red too. How did he come to this conclusion?

Alpha triangle

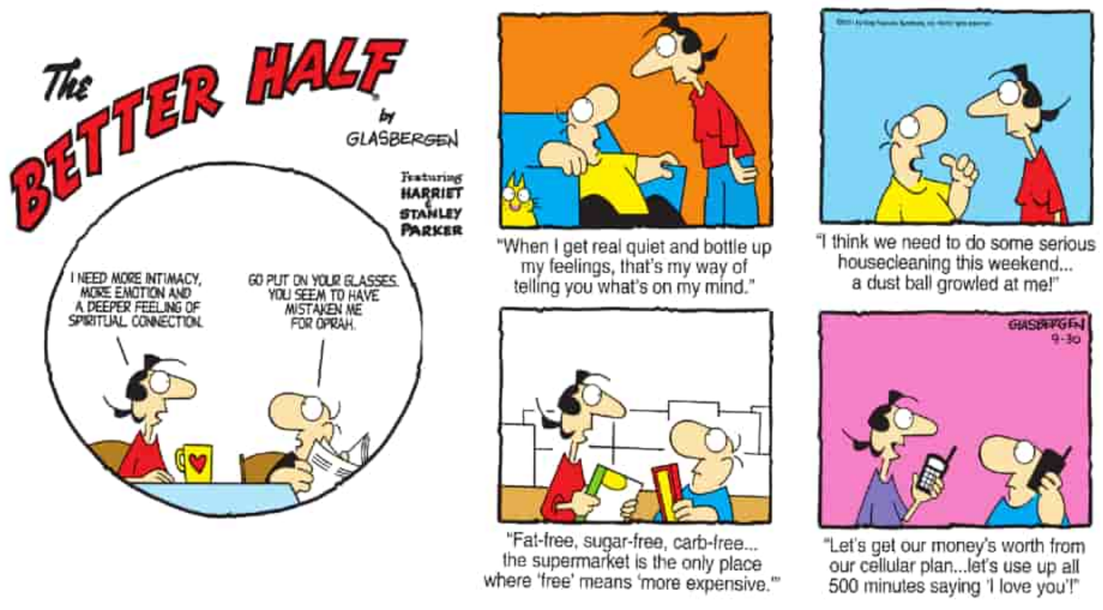
1 Atomic number One
2 Greeting
3 Natl. Inst. of Health
4 Nearly
5 Whinny
6 Complain incessantly
7 Masticating



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS


The BETTER HALF
by GLASBERGEN
Featuring HARRIET & STANLEY PARKER
I NEED MORE INTIMACY, MORE EMOTION AND A DEEPER FEELING OF SPIRITUAL CONNECTION.
GO PUT ON YOUR GLASSES. YOU SEEM TO HAVE MISTAKEN ME FOR OPRAH.
"When I get real quiet and bottle up my feelings, that's my way of telling you what's on my mind."
"I think we need to do some serious housecleaning this weekend... a dust ball growled at me!"
"Fat-free, sugar-free, carb-free... the supermarket is the only place where 'free' means 'more expensive.'"
"Let's get our money's worth from our cellular plan...let's use up all 500 minutes saying 'I love you'!"
GLASBERGEN 9-30

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
REPLACING A CHRISTMAS BULB, BUT NOW THERE'S ANOTHER ONE OUT.
I'LL BRING YOU ONE!
NO, I DON'T WANT YOU CLIMBING THE LADDER.
I'D BET ON IT.
THEN, I HAVE A BETTER IDEA.
LET'S HEAR IT.
WE'RE GOING TO THE EMERGENCY ROOM, RIGHT?
READY?
LET 'ER RIP!

FLASH GORDON
BY JIM KEEFE
AS RESCUERS REACH THE CONTROL ROOM OF THE DESTROYED HANGAR, AN UNEXPECTED SURVIVOR IS FOUND.
DALE ARDEN..?!
BUT HOW? FLASH SAW YOU ON BOARD THE SHIP!
KEEFE 6-11 McMURRAY
THAT CAN'T BE... LAST THING I REMEMBER I WAS LOOKING OUT THE CONTROL ROOM WINDOW AT THE SPACECRAFT...
...REFLECTED IN THE SHIP'S VIEWSCREEN I SAW FLASH ENTERING THE HANGAR...
...THEN THE SHIP EXPLODED!
FLASH MUST HAVE SEEN YOUR REFLECTION AND MISTOOK THAT YOU WERE ON BOARD.
WHERE IS FLASH... IS HE OKAY?
HE'S... MISSING.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "MISSING"?
ESCAPED!
BARIN!
...AND UNTIL THE STOCKPILE OF RADIUM-X ON YOUR SHIP IS EXPLAINED...
...YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!
NEXT
GUILTY UNTIL PROVEN INNOCENT!

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today brings a sense of happiness and relief. Long-standing health issues concerning elders may begin to improve. Financially, stuck funds might be recovered, boosting your confidence. Those employed might consider a job switch in pursuit of a promotion, while job seekers may receive promising opportunities through a friend's recommendation.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
You may feel motivated to gain new knowledge and appreciate the value of intellectual growth. Your ability to manage your temper will aid in completing tasks efficiently. Steady income sources may offer financial comfort. Exercise caution with new investments. Spending on loved ones is likely, and couples in love may enjoy joyful, bonding moments.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Low energy may affect your ability to enjoy the present moment. A rushed approach to work can lead to mistakes and delays in projects, affecting your professional life. It's wise to seek guidance from elders before making any significant decisions today.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
You're likely to feel energetic and focused, helping you advance current tasks. Colleagues may support you in launching a new project with potential long-term benefits. Short, family-related trips are possible. Job seekers may hear good news regarding employment.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Your creativity may shine at both work and home, elevating your social image. Smart financial decisions could help you curb unnecessary spending and increase savings. Family support for marriage may bring joy to couples, while students could receive encouraging academic news.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
After a period of chaos, the day feels more stable. Inner strength may guide you in making important decisions, especially in family business matters, potentially leading to progress. Helping those in need can enhance your reputation. Students may gain clarity regarding career paths.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
You may feel anxious or restless today. Avoid major investments in business or real estate and steer clear of high-speed travel or long-distance trips. Meditation or mindfulness practices could help improve sleep and bring peace of mind.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Elders' blessings may bring happiness and clarity. Investments might begin to yield returns, turning past losses into gains. Savings could grow, and you may start planning for your children's future. Enjoying delicious home-cooked meals is likely. Health issues related to the throat, teeth, ears, or nose may start resolving.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Work may feel more fulfilling today, and your efforts might be rewarded with a promotion. Helping someone in need could enhance your social reputation. However, overthinking might cause mental fatigue and prevent you from fully participating in family activities. Parental health may improve.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Projects that were previously stalled may move forward effortlessly. A sense of satisfaction at work is likely. You might plan a short business trip or visit a spiritual place to rejuvenate. Guidance from elders can help you remain focused on your long-term goals.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Fatigue or minor health concerns could trouble you today. Try to stay calm and focused. Be sure to read all documents thoroughly before signing. Recovering pending payments may prove challenging. Avoid adventurous trips. Students should stay immersed in their studies. You may feel drawn to mystical or spiritual topics.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
You may be occupied with domestic tasks. Buying decorative or artistic items could enhance your home and improve your social image. Investment in property or fixed assets is a possibility. Romantic moments with your partner may strengthen emotional bonds, and singles might receive positive news about marriage prospects.

KIDZONE

Shraavya, Bengaluru

Saakshi S,Bengaluru

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SOLUTIONS

RIDDLER Let's call the philosophers A, B and C. A reasoned that B was confident his nose wasn't red. If B saw A's nose wasn't red, he would be surprised that C was laughing, because C would have nothing to laugh at. But B wasn't surprised, therefore, A correctly reasoned his nose was smeared.

STRIKE OUT

C	L	A	S	P	I	N	G	■	M	I	C	A	■	■
H	■	C	■	E	■	A	A	R	O	N	■	G	■	■
E	N	C	L	A	S	P	S	■	A	S	A	N	■	■
A	■	R	■	K	■	E	■	A	N	T	■	A	■	■
P	E	A	L	■	T	R	A	N	S	E	P	T	■	■
■	■	■	■	T	■	Y	■	A	■	A	L	E	■	■
E	N	T	R	Y	■	A	N	O	D	E	■	■	■	■
E	R	A	■	I	■	B	■	D	■	A	■	■	■	■
L	Y	I	N	G	L	O	W	■	F	A	D	S	■	■
A	■	L	O	O	■	Y	S	■	M	O	■	■	■	■
I	S	I	■	T	■	E	I	G	H	T	E	E	N	■
N	■	N	E	A	R	S	■	O	■	E	■	I	■	■
C	L	A	S	P	I	N	G	■	M	I	C	A	■	■

FAST FIVE

S	H	A	D	S
T	A	L	O	N
U	L	T	R	A
F	L	A	I	R
F	O	R	C	E

BULL'S EYE abet, ABETTER, berate, beret, beta, tree, better, bret, eater, rate, rebate, tart, tear, treat, beater, beet, bate, batter, beat,

SOLVE IN 1M =(8 x 1/16) ÷ 1/64
=1/2÷1/64; 64÷2=32

QUICK

■	S	■	■	■	E	■	S	T	■	K	■	■	■	■
H	U	T	U	T	■	T	I	■	L	T	E	D	■	■
■	T	■	O	■	T	■	■	I	■	T	■	■	■	■
F	O	O	L	S	C	A	P	■	S	L	I	T	■	■
■	H	■	L	■	A	■	M	■	■	N	■	■	■	■
S	C	R	A	M	■	C	O	P	S	O	U	T	■	■
■	■	■	O	■	E	■	C	■	I	■	■	■	■	■
A	L	I	G	H	T	S	■	C	O	U	R	T	■	■
■	U	■	■	A	■	E	■	■	N	■	E	■	■	■
A	F	A	R	■	T	A	L	K	I	N	T	O	■	■
E	■	E	■	C	■	I	■	M	A	L	N	A	D	■
B	O	N	S	A	I	■	D	■	S	■	I	■	L	■
W	■	U	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE
2. Working from top to bottom, and reading each row as a 3 digit number, rows are arranged in order of the Square Numbers, from 11 to 15, with the digits reversed in each case.

QUOTE UNCODE
The art of love is largely the art of persistence.

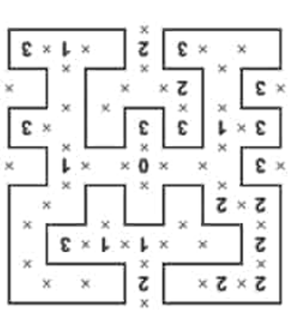
SUDOKU

5	1	9	4	2	3	6	8	7
7	8	6	5	1	9	4	3	2
3	2	4	8	7	6	1	9	5
4	5	7	9	8	2	3	1	6
8	6	1	7	3	5	2	4	9
2	9	3	1	6	4	7	5	8
6	3	5	2	4	8	9	7	1
1	4	8	6	9	7	5	2	3
9	7	2	3	5	1	8	6	4

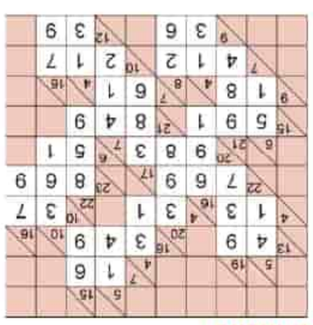
ALPHA TRIANGLE
H, Hi, Nih, Nigh, Neigh, Whinge, Chewing.

GO FIGURE
Easy
3 + 4 + 4 + 1 = 12
Medium
7 + 8 – 7 + 7 = 15
Hard
5 x 2 + 5 + 4 = 19

LOOP



KAKURO



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